

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The newspaper/broadcast

cross-ownership cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

As someone who has worked in media for a great many years, I am all too clear about the increasing power that business interests have had on media's editorial policies. If our country is to return to true freedom of the press, then media interests must be kept decentralized. It is inappropriate for a supposedly free country to have the degree of press censorship that is currently in effect because of vested interests of media ownership. The job of government is to protect the democracy and the rights of the people. Please keep work to restore balance instead of promoting deregulation.